

Message Text

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ORIGIN ABF-01

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DRAFTED BY A/BF/OAG:DLQUAID
APPROVED BY A/BF/OAG:JHSOUTHERLAND
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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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FRANKFURT FOR GAO EDER

E.O. 11652: N/A.

TAGS: AGAO, MARR, GW, UK

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW: "PERFORMANCE OF DOD RECONNAISSANCE/
INFORMATION GATHERING SYSTEMS."

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING
OFFICE OF THE SUBJECT REVIEW TO BE CONDUCTED PRIMARILY AT
US INSTALLATIONS IN EUROPE DURING THE PERIOD JULY 25 -
AUGUST 30.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW IS TO IDENTIFY THE CAPABILITIES
AND LIMITATIONS OF CURRENTLY DEPLOYED SYSTEMS AS THEY
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PAGE 02 STATE 160855

RELATE TO THE NEEDS OF THE MILITARY COMMANDS, AND TO VALI-
DATE THE SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS OF NEW SYSTEMS
NOW IN THE DEVELOPMENT CYCLE.

3. GAO WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF SEVERAL NATO
GOVERNMENTS ON THE TYPES OF RECONNAISSANCE EQUIPMENT AND
PROCESSING PROCEDURES CONSIDERED MOST PRODUCTIVE FOR OUR

ALLIES. INFORMATION OBTAINED WOULD BE USED AS BACKGROUND DATA TO HELP EVALUATE AND COMPARE DOD POSITIONS WITH OTHER EXPERIENCED MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS REVIEW, GAO WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSIES ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE OF THE FRG AND THE UK ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: BONN, AUGUST 12 AND LONDON, AUGUST 22.

5. GAO AUDITORS INVOLVED ARE CHARLES M. WOLFF AND JOHN J. KLOTZ. BOTH ARE IN POSSESSION OF CURRENT TOP SECRET AND COSMIC SECURITY CLEARANCES. IF ADDITIONAL CLEARANCES ARE NEEDED, PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

6. GAO WILL WANT TO ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS OF THE MOD'S: A) WHAT TYPES OF INFORMATION ARE CONSIDERED MOST USEFUL TO COMBAT COMMANDS?(ORDER OF BATTLE, ELECTRONIC, COMBAT VEHICLE LOCATIONS, UNIT IDENTITIES, TERRAIN CONFIGURATION, OTHER) B) WHAT TYPE OF INTELLIGENCE IS EXPECTED TO BE THE MOST USEFUL(ELECTROMAGNETIC, IMAGERY, HUMAN) C) WHAT IS CONSIDERED THE BEST TECHNIQUE OF OBTAINING ACCURATE AND TIMELY INFORMATION? D) DOES THE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY ALLOW ANY NEW TECHNIQUES FOR COLLECTING INFORMATION? E) WHAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE BEST COMMAND LEVEL FOR CORRELATING AND DISTRIBUTING DATA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DERIVED FROM BOTH GROUND-BASED AND AIRBORNE COLLECTORS? F) WHAT ARE THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO BE OVERCOME IN PROVIDING MILITARY COMMANDERS WITH ACCURATE AND TIMELY DATA? A?

7. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO COOPERATE WITH THE GAO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES IN 4 FAM 930-934. GAO IS AWARE THAT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE AMBASSADOR, ARE TO BE ARRANGED FOR BY THE MISSION, AND A MISSION OFFICER WILL ACCOMPANY, IF FEASIBLE. QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ACCESS TO US DOCUMENTS OR FILES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT. VANCE

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